

Program #15102A - Domestic Violence Unit 4/21/2021

Department: District Attorney **Program Contact:** John Casalino
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Proposed
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Domestic violence is a serious social, economic and public health concern which this program addresses. The DV Unit prosecutes felonies and misdemeanors crimes committed against members of the community including physical and sexual assaults, homicides and violations of restraining orders. Additionally, this unit responds to mental health concerns in Multnomah County Mental Health Court. These lawyers work closely with victim advocates to ensure trauma-informed support for survivors and their children while providing outreach to essential services. This unit strives to build trust, seek equitable outcomes and make the lives better for community members who have experienced violence within their families.

Program Summary

This program prosecutes family or intimate partner violence including physical and sexual assaults (rape, sodomy, for example), strangulation, kidnapping and homicide. The goals of this program are to secure victim, family and community safety while seeking defendant accountability--especially for underserved populations-- including Native American, People of Color, LGBTQ2SIA+, people with physical or developmental disabilities, victims of human trafficking, those experiencing homelessness, limited English proficiency, immigrants and refugees. Additionally, these DDAs advocate for community-oriented interventions to help support survivors and their children in breaking the generational cycle of family violence thereby reducing disparities and harmful health consequences from domestic violence., Moreover, the unit works to ensure that each victim is treated respectfully, compassionately with dignity and equity. The Victim Assistance Program assigns an advocate to each case to provide culturally specific outreach and assist survivors in obtaining comprehensive wrap around support services to help achieve equity, remove barriers, and alleviate survivors' psychological, social, and financial fears. The unit collaborates with state and local law enforcement, the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice and a variety of local nonprofit domestic violence organizations and shelters. This unit works closely with Portland Police Bureau Domestic Violence Reduction Unit (DVRU) and the Domestic Violence Emergency Response Team (DVERT). The senior deputy district attorney is also an executive committee member for the Family Violence Coordination Council, the Domestic Violence Fatality Review, the DV court workgroup and is the co-chair of the local Chapter of Justice Jammers, a work group that meets to identify gaps in the justice system effecting domestic violence victim safety, equity and offender accountability. This program offers deferred sentencing where first time offenders earn a dismissal of charges with successful completion of a highly supervised and closely monitored program that includes batterer's intervention strategies and counseling. This unit acts as a resource for training of community partners, state and local law enforcement agencies. The unit dedicates a full time attorney to Multnomah County Mental Health Court to address non-criminal needs.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	All DV cases Reviewed (Felony, Misdo, VRO)	3,034	2,727	3,100	3,100
Outcome	Percentage of presumptively prison eligible defendants diverted from prison to community supervision	58%	72%	65%	65%
Output	Number of underserved victims/survivors served through case consultation/contacts-VAWA	248	200	438	438
Outcome	Numbers of offenders charged/prosecuted for harming underserved community members-VAWA	166	45	364	364

Performance Measures Descriptions

Added VAWA Performance measures.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

ORS 8.660 - Attending court and prosecuting offenses. (1) The district attorney shall attend the terms of all courts having jurisdiction of public offenses within the district attorney's county, and, except as otherwise provided in this section, conduct, on behalf of the state, all prosecutions for such offenses therein.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Personnel	\$1,827,703	\$108,325	\$1,893,300	\$108,328
Contractual Services	\$36,000	\$0	\$48,000	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$22,200	\$0	\$18,000	\$0
Internal Services	\$0	\$19,834	\$227,357	\$19,834
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,885,903	\$128,159	\$2,186,657	\$128,162
Program Total:	\$2,014,062		\$2,314,819	
Program FTE	10.40	0.60	10.44	0.56

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$128,159	\$0	\$128,162
Total Revenue	\$0	\$128,159	\$0	\$128,162

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$19,834 in indirect revenues.

\$128,162 Stop Violence Against Women (VAWA) Formula Competitive Grant funds 0.56 FTE of a DDA2

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2021: 15102A Domestic Violence Unit

MCDA sought and obtained a Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant to fund a prosecutor to serve underserved community members. The grant partially funds a DDA and the county funded FY2021 15102B-VAWA to fill this funding gap for this essential position. Tracking the number of community members who qualify as VAWA, has revealed that there are more victims/cases than the VAWA prosecutor can be assigned. To meet this demand, many of these cases have had to be assigned to other members of the Unit who coordinate w/ the VAWADDA. Given COVID conditions, civil unrest and violence, family stressors have increased and community members are experiencing increased violence. DV case submissions and DV homicides increased. These conditions illustrate that staffing and funding to save lives and stop the violence is needed. Although members of this unit sometimes work remotely, lawyers, victim advocates and staff have continued to work in-person at personal risk to meet survivors' needs, and advocate for survivors' physical safety. Internal service charges are increased reflecting a change to allocate facilities, data, distribution, telecommunications, and fleet services in individual units. Previously these costs were consolidated in 15001-Administrative Support Services, 15002-Information Technology, and the Div I, II, III, and IV Administration program offers.